

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2000  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1718**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hertzberg**  
**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Keeley)**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aroner, Bock, Davis, Kuehl,**  
**Longville, Machado, Maddox, Mazzoni, Steinberg,**  
**Strom-Martin, and Washington)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Perata)

January 3, 2000

---

---

An act to add Section 13515.25 to the Penal Code, relating to peace officers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1718, as amended, Hertzberg. Peace officers: advanced training: mental illness.

Existing law requires specified categories of law enforcement officers to meet training standards pursuant to courses of training certified by the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) program, including a basic training course for law enforcement officers containing an adequate instruction in the handling of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, or both, as specified.

This bill would require that, on or before June 30, 2001, POST establish and keep updated a continuing education classroom training course relating to law enforcement

intervention with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons and that the course be developed in consultation with specified groups and entities.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 13515.25 is added to the Penal  
2 Code, to read:

3 13515.25. (a) The Commission on Peace Officer  
4 Standards and Training shall, on or before June 30, 2001,  
5 establish and keep updated a continuing education  
6 classroom training course relating to law enforcement  
7 interaction with developmentally disabled and mentally  
8 ill persons. The training course shall be developed by the  
9 commission in consultation with appropriate community,  
10 ~~local and state organizations,~~ *and state organizations* and  
11 agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness  
12 and developmental disability, and with appropriate  
13 consumer and family advocate groups. In developing the  
14 course, the commission shall also examine existing courses  
15 certified by the commission that relate to mentally ill and  
16 developmentally disabled persons. The commission shall  
17 make the course available to law enforcement agencies  
18 in California.

19 (b) The course described in subdivision (a) shall  
20 consist of classroom instruction and shall utilize  
21 ~~role playing and the development of scenarios to~~  
22 ~~simulate actual situations~~ *interactive training methods to*  
23 *ensure that the training is as realistic as possible.* The  
24 course shall include, at a minimum, core instruction in all  
25 of the following:

26 (1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and  
27 developmental disabilities.

28 (2) How to identify indicators of mental illness and  
29 developmental disability and how to respond  
30 appropriately in a variety of common situations.



1 (3) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques  
2 for potentially dangerous situations involving mentally ill  
3 and developmentally disabled persons.

4 (4) Appropriate language usage when interacting  
5 with mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

6 (5) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with  
7 potentially dangerous mentally ill and developmentally  
8 disabled persons.

9 (6) Community and state resources available to serve  
10 mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons and  
11 how these resources can be best utilized by law  
12 enforcement to benefit the mentally ill and  
13 developmentally disabled community.

14 ~~(d)~~

15 (c) The commission shall submit a report to the  
16 Legislature by ~~July 1, 2002~~ *October 1, 2003*, that shall  
17 include all of the following:

18 (1) A description of the process by which the course  
19 was established, including a list of the agencies and groups  
20 that were consulted.

21 (2) Information on the number of law enforcement  
22 agencies that utilized, and the number of officers that  
23 attended, the course or other courses certified by the  
24 commission relating to mentally ill and developmentally  
25 disabled persons from July 1, 2001, to July 1, ~~2002~~ *2003*,  
26 inclusive.

27 (3) Information on the number of law enforcement  
28 agencies that utilized, and the number of officers that  
29 attended, courses certified by the commission relating to  
30 mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons from  
31 July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2001, inclusive.

32 ~~(e)~~

33 (d) The Legislature encourages law enforcement  
34 agencies to include the course created in this section, or  
35 any other course certified by the commission relating to  
36 mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons, as  
37 part of their advanced officer training program.

38 ~~(f)~~

39 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to reevaluate, on  
40 the basis of its review of the report required in subdivision



1 ~~(d)~~ (c), the extent to which law enforcement officers are  
2 receiving adequate training in how to interact with  
3 mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

O

